

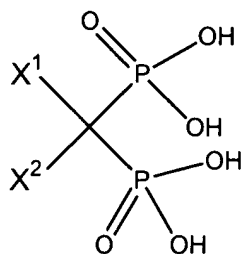
Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the title with the following amended title:

~~Process for preparing~~ Salts of substituted methylene bisphosphonic acids and salts

Please delete previous abstract and add the following new abstract:

A salt of substituted or unsubstituted methylene bisphosphonic acid of formula I



(I)

wherein X¹ and X² are both chlorine or one of X¹ and X² is hydrogen and one is chlorine and the salt is selected from the group consisting of a C₁₋₆ straight or branched primary, secondary or tertiary alkyl amine salt, an aralkyl amine salt, and a basic N-containing heterocycle salt. The salts are used for preparing pharmaceutically relevant compounds.